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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

[ISSUED 14TH DECEMBER, 1865.]

SESSION 1865-66.

First Meeting, 13th November, 1865.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*William H. Clark, Esq.; John S. Coysh, Esq.; Samuel C. Fox, Esq.; Commander J. B. Grove, R.N.; Warren S. Hale, Esq.; John Jebb, Esq.; J. Gwyn Jeffreys, Esq.; Lieut. F. C. H. Hallett; Colonel MacGoun; William Mackinnon, Esq.; Sir Robert Montgomery, K.C.B.; Paul F. Morgan, Esq.; William Pilkington, Esq.; Alexander Pringle, Esq.; Colonel Rivers, BOMB. ENG.; Samuel Spalding, Esq.; R. Temple, Esq.; Edward Wilson, Esq.*

PRINCIPAL ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY SINCE THE LAST MEETING, JUNE 12TH, 1865.—Berchet's '*Repubblica di Venezia.*' Presented by the Chevalier Cristoforo Negri. '*Travels through Naples in 1789,*' by C. W. de Salis. '*Giornale di Statistica di Sicilia.*' Vols. 1, 2, 3, and 5. '*The Dynamical Theory of the Formation of the Earth,*' by A. T. Ritchie. '*Portfolio Chinensis; or a collection of Chinese State Papers,*' by J. L. Shuck. '*Voyage en Crimée et sur les bords de la Mer Noire,*' by J. Reuilly, &c. &c. All presented by Sir Woodbine Parish. '*Exploration of Vancouver Island,*' by R. Brown, Esq. '*Reisen der Oesterreichischen Fregatte Novara um die Erde,*' 2 vols., by Dr. F. von Hochstetter. Both presented by their respective authors. '*Die Psychologie als Naturwissenschaft,*' 3 vols., by Dr. A. Bastian. Presented by the author. '*Ueber den Urstamm der Indo-europäischen Sprachfamilie, von D. G. D. Europæus.*' '*Inscriptions Runiques du Slesvig Meridional,*' par C. C. Rafn. '*Western Inland Provinces of China Proper,*' by Capt. R. Sprye. '*Annuaire du Senegal,*' 1864. '*Mémoires sur la Chine,*' par le Comte d'Escayrac de Lauture. '*Survey of the Sea of Aral,*' by Commander A. Butakoff, &c. &c. All presented by Sir R. I. Murchison, K.C.B.

'Austria,' by J. G. Kohl, Esq. Klaproth's 'Mémoires relatives à l'Asie.' Presented by S. M. Drach, Esq. 'Hydrologie du Nil,' par M. Lombardini. Presented by the author. Dr. Livingstone's 'Zambesi, and its Tributaries.' Presented by the publisher. Capt. Grant's 'Walk across Africa.' Palgrave's 'Arabia.' Ansted and Latham's 'Channel Islands.' Alcock's 'Japan.' Guyot's 'Earth and Man.' Continuations of 'Journals,' Periodicals, &c., of the various Societies.

PRINCIPAL ACCESSIONS TO THE MAP-ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING, JUNE 12TH, 1865.—MS. Map of the Journey by Messrs. Chapman and Baines, from Walfish Bay to the Victoria Falls; on 15 sheets; scale 1 inch = 8 miles; accompanied by various photographic views of scenery; presented by Mr. Chapman. River Amur, by M. Schwartz; on 7 sheets. Holy Land, by Van de Velde; 8 copies. A Map of Eastern Siberia, including Mongolia and Manchuria, &c., by Semenov. French Admiralty Charts, 75 in number. Chart of Spitzbergen, by Nordenskiöld. Maps of India, by Lieut.-Col. Thuillier, 46 in number, on 102 sheets; presented by Col. Thuillier. Maps of Eastern Australia, showing the routes of Messrs. Jardine and McDonald, from Queensland to Cape York; presented by Sir Geo. Bowen, through the Colonial Office. Russia in Europe, by Dr. Kiepert, 6 sheets; presented by the author. Ordnance Maps, 928. Admiralty Charts, 26 in number. Atlas of Relief Maps, by C. Raaz; presented by Dr. Lüdde.

THE PRESIDENT, in opening the Session, addressed the Meeting as follows:—

GENTLEMEN—We re-assemble for this Session under circumstances which must gladden the heart of every geographer. As none of us can forget the enthusiasm which greeted the lamented Speke and his gallant associate Grant on their first appearance in this hall after their successful exploit in tracing the Nile to its mouth, from the great Lake Victoria Nyanza in the heart of Equatorial Africa, so may we well rejoice when we now welcome to his country that most enterprising, skilful, and large-hearted traveller, Samuel Baker. This traveller has not only verified many important points in the deductions of his lamented precursor, but has discovered that the Luta or Muta Nzigé of Central Africa—sketched out by Speke from native reports—is a deep and vast rock-basin, having a length of 260 miles, or about as long as Scotland, exclusive of what may be its southerly and unknown boundary, and that, unlike the Victoria and most other African lakes, it is subtended by high shores composed of hard granitic rocks.

Let me call your attention specially to one or two only of the salient points in the conduct of the man who is now happily among us, and who, by his devotion to geographical science, has worked out, entirely at his own cost, this grand addition to our previous knowledge. Distinguished as an explorer in Ceylon and Upper Egypt, and particularly in having determined the nature of the affluents of the Atbara, that great tributary of the Nile, and in fixing many positions thereon, Mr. Samuel Baker was no sooner made acquainted with the perilous and exhausted condition in which Speke and Grant were expected to emerge from Equatorial Africa, and also with the unforeseen disasters which had befallen our envoy Petherick, who was commissioned to carry succour to the travellers—disasters which would render him unable to assist them—than, at his own cost, he fitted out an expedition, and, carrying with him adequate supplies, was the first to relieve their wants. It was for this noble conduct, as well as for the gallant and determined manner in which, undaunted by all the dangers through which Speke and Grant had struggled, he resolved to go forward into the country of the Equatorial King Kamrasi, there to work out that important portion of the course of the Nile which was left undetermined, that we awarded to him our Victoria Medal.

The difficulties which our traveller had to overcome immediately after the departure of Speke and Grant were, indeed, more than enough to paralyse the ardour and check the energy of any man. For the natives whom he had engaged to transport his provisions and goods mutinied, and, separating into two parties, proceeded to make *razzias*—or marauding forays—for the ivory and slave traders, upon tribes at some distance to the east. Being thus rendered wholly unable to proceed direct towards the country he was bound to examine, Baker followed up the lesser party of the mutineers far away to the east, and, by gifts, promises, and able management, contrived to win over a sufficient number of these people to transport his goods. This he effected the more readily after the larger party of 104 persons had been, to a man, killed by the brave natives of the Latooka tribe, who defended their independence against these villainous slave-hunters.

I have here to announce, and with a pride and gratification that will, I know, be shared by every one in this assembly, that in all his arduous and perilous travels our medallist was accompanied by Mrs. Baker, to whom, as he himself has told me, much of his success is due, and who, by her conduct, has shown what the wife of a gallant explorer can accomplish in duty to her husband. Well, indeed, may she be proud of him who has won our highest

honour, and who is now welcomed home by us with such enthusiasm and with our warmest thanks. Following up the researches of Speke, who had called the great higher lake the Victoria Nyanza, in honour of our gracious Sovereign, Baker has most appropriately raised a lasting memorial of Her Majesty's lamented and enlightened Consort, by affixing to this second great lake of the Nile the name of Albert Nyanza.

Besides the grand addition to the geography of Inner Africa made by Mr. Baker, I have the pleasure to inform you that, in other parts of Africa, measures are in active operation which will greatly enlarge our acquaintance with that continent. Thus, our medallist Baron C. von der Decken—an explorer who, like Mr. Baker, is doing everything at his own cost—writes to me that, after seven months of tedious preparation, assisted by our naval authorities, in getting his iron river-steamers put together, his expedition is fully equipped, and that he is on his way to penetrate Eastern Africa, north of Zanzibar. His intention is first to explore the Thula and Shamba rivers, and afterwards to ascend the Jub; for this purpose he has taken with him two small steamers, one of which was towed from Zanzibar to Thula by H.M.S. *Lyra*—Capt. Parr, the commander of that vessel, having greatly assisted him. His party consists of 10 Europeans and 32 Africans (including two of Captain Speke's men); but it is his intention to take with him only 15 or 20 in his projected journey overland from the limit of navigation on the river.

In reference to the geography of the Upper Nile, it gratifies me to state that, in the next volume of our Journal, the course of the various affluents of the great stream to the west of Gondokoro will be correctly laid down by Mr. Arrowsmith, from astronomical observations and compass-bearings contributed by Mr. Petherick and his assistant Dr. Murie.

Our latest news of the courageous explorer M. Du Chaillu is contained in a letter sent to us from the Gaboon, by Mr. R. B. N. Walker, and dated the 23rd of June. According to him, reports had been received to the effect that M. Du Chaillu and his black people, about 100 in number, had some months previously reached the Ashira country, about 150 miles from the coast. He was detained there for a long time, but had recently been allowed to proceed; not, however, without paying very heavily for the permission. The small-pox had broken out amongst the Ashira tribe simultaneously with M. Du Chaillu's arrival, and this circumstance was the chief cause of the obstacles placed in his way, as the natives attribute the introduction of the disease to the white man. It was, however,

believed that he had passed beyond the Ashira country towards the unknown interior, and since then no further news has been received from him.

As regards African explorations now in operation, I have furthermore to state that when I last heard from Livingstone he was making due preparations at Bombay to penetrate once more from the east into the interior, but in more northern latitudes than those hitherto visited by him. Already under the enlightened encouragement of the Governor, Sir Bartle Frere, he has engaged to accompany him several natives of the African interior who had learnt trades, and has purchased buffaloes in the hope that these animals would be able to withstand the bite of the tsetse fly. Looking forward, as we must, with intense interest to the results of the present endeavour of this gifted man, who has already done so much to advance geographical science whilst labouring as a zealous missionary, and as a hearty enemy of the slave trade, I venture to anticipate that on this journey, if his life be spared, he will be enabled to determine finally the true watershed of Southern Africa.

In making these observations, I am naturally led to recall your attention to the great discoveries of the lamented Speke, now that the results of his journeys have been to so remarkable a degree confirmed by Baker. I therefore express the hope that the monument we are about to erect to his memory may not lack due completion for the want of the small additional sum which is required to carry out the design. A granite obelisk, similar to that erected to Lieutenant Bellot, at Greenwich, is now nearly finished, and the site for its erection in the metropolis will soon be fixed upon.*

In the course of our Session many other topics of great interest will be discussed besides those which relate to Africa.

Such, for example, will be the recent explorations in North-Eastern Australia, by the brothers Jardine and other travellers, to which Sir George Bowen, the energetic and successful Governor of Queensland, has directed my attention. Such also are the researches now in operation to trace the last route of Leichhardt, which, if they fail in discovering that any of the party are still living, will most certainly add greatly to our acquaintance with the nature of that great continent, so large a portion of which our countrymen have successfully colonized. On this account I trust that the benevolent efforts of Dr. Mueller and the ladies of Victoria, who have established a fund to liquidate the expenses of the search, augmented, as I have just learnt, by the sum of 1000*l.*,

* Subscription lists are open at 15, Whitehall Place, and at Messrs. Coutts, and Messrs. Cocks and Biddulph, bankers.

munificently voted by the Parliament of Queensland, will be supported by geographers at home.

We shall also have brought before us much curious and novel information respecting vast regions of North-Western Brazil, watered by the Purus and other affluents of the Amazons, which will enlighten us with regard to the great extent of country in the interior of South America that yet remains to be explored. We expect, too, contributions regarding the geography of that portion of our globe which is considered to have been the birth-place of the human race—the western portion of Central Asia; for we are compelled to admit that we know really less of these countries than was known to the ancients, the recent labours of Russian explorers along the northern borders of Central Asia and the course of the Jaxartes revealing to us fresh knowledge as to the direction and nature of many mountain chains, and the course of several important streams, in that unknown region.

But these subjects will be more largely treated of in my anniversary address in May, and I now revert to the topic with which I began, and beg to direct your attention this evening exclusively to the bold and eminently successful explorations of Mr. Samuel Baker. I will only add that the sketches of scenery and the inhabitants which Mr. Baker has brought home with him are of the highest interest, and when published will ensure our commendation.

I now call on Mr. Baker to make his communication.

Mr. BAKER then read the following Paper:—

Account of the Discovery of the second Great Lake of the Nile, Albert Nyanza. By SAMUEL WHITE BAKER, Esq.

IN the year 1861 I commenced an expedition to discover the sources of the Nile, with the hope of meeting the East African Expedition of Captains Speke and Grant. I had not the presumption to make my intention public, as the Nile source had hitherto defied all explorers; but as the insignificant worm slowly bores its way into the hardest oak, even so I hoped by perseverance to reach the heart of Africa.

I employed the first year in exploring all the Nile tributaries from Abyssinia,—the Athara, Settite, Royān, Salaam, Angrab, Rahad, Dinder,—and thence descended the banks of the Blue Nile to Khartúm. I will not describe this journey, but will confine myself to the most important point—the Great White Nile.

I completed my arrangements at Khartúm, and started on the 18th December, 1864, with a powerful force in three vessels, with